



Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise

David Ezra Stein

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Surprise! The little red chicken is back -- and as endearingly silly as ever -- in David Ezra Stein's follow-up to the Caldecott Honor-winning *Interrupting Chicken*.

It's homework time for the little red chicken, who has just learned about something every good story should have: an elephant of surprise. Or could it be an *element* of surprise (as her amused papa explains)? As they dive in to story after story, looking for the part that makes a reader say "Whoa! I didn't know *that* was going to happen," Papa is sure he can convince Chicken he's right. After all, there are definitely no elephants in "The Ugly Duckling," "Rapunzel," or "The Little Mermaid" -- or are there? Elephant or element, something unexpected awaits Papa in every story, but a surprise may be in store for the little red chicken as well. Full of the same boisterous charm that made *Interrupting Chicken* so beloved by readers, this gleeful follow-up is sure to delight fans of stories, surprises, and elephants alike.

Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise Details

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Author : David Ezra Stein

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From Reader Review Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise for online ebook

Cassandra Elise says

Cute sequel to the Caldecott-honored book. It wasn't quite as funny as its predecessor, but it still gave me a few chuckles and can teach kids all about the "elephant" of surprise found in most books (also known as the plot twist).

Michelle (FabBookReviews) says

4.5 stars

The sequel to David Ezra Stein's terrifically funny- and Caldecott Honor-winning!- *Interrupting Chicken*, *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise* sees the return of the indefatigable little red chicken who so delighted readers in book one. When Chicken gets home after school, she tells her papa all about what she learned that day: "...today my teacher told us every story has an elephant of surprise. So let's read a story, and we'll find the elephant". As her father gently corrects her by noting that it is actually called an "element of surprise...the part of the story that makes you say, 'Whoa!',", Chicken is already off looking for stories to read so that they can find the elusive elephant of surprise. And wouldn't you know it, classics like The Ugly Duckling, Rapunzel, and The Little Mermaid *all have elephants in them*?! (Poor Papa is a bit worn out at the end of all of the elephant surprises). Following the successful format of the book one (of fractured stories within the main story), *Interrupting Chicken and the Elephant of Surprise* is just as delightful, giggle-inducing and clever as the first *Interrupting Chicken* tale.

I received a copy of this title courtesy of partner Candlewick Press/Penguin Random House Canada in exchange for an honest review. All opinions and comments are my own.

Barb says

Sadly, a bit shy of even a "meh" book for me.

Sadly, because *Interrupting Chicken* is one of my all time favs...

Christen says

The little red chicken is BACK and ready to teach her papa all about the part of all good stories that makes the reader go WHOA, I didn't see that coming! You know, the elephant of surprise!

The kids still love chicken and they are all in for finding the elephant in classic stories. I do find myself having to recap the stories BEFORE I actually read the snippets to the kids, just to give them a jumping off

point if they haven't heard the story before. Shared with 2nd grade during book fair week since I read The Interrupting Chicken to 1st grade every year for our fairy tales unit in the spring.

Katie Fitzgerald says

In this sequel to Interrupting Chicken, Chicken comes home from school with instructions from her teacher to find the elephant of surprise in every story she reads. Her dad tries to explain that her teacher is talking about the element of surprise, but Chicken is determined to write elephants into every story instead. Though the artwork is just as great in this book as it was in the first, there is little more to the text than this one joke, which is pretty well played out before the story is half over. I expected more from this book.

This review also appears on my blog, [Read-at-Home Mom](#).

Donna Snyder says

This is a wonder story with a word play twist. The author was very clever in the dialog and would keep parents amused when reading to their children. The author also did the illustrations, which are beautiful and fairly detailed. I also liked the fact that Papa chicken read to his daughter. I'm going to read more of David Ezra Stein's books.

Pablo V says

The chicken her read the book ?

Tasha says

This is the sequel to the Caldecott Honor winner that returns us to the silliness of the first. The little red chicken has homework to do. At school, he learned all about the “elephant of surprise” and how it appears in every story. Papa tries to correct his little chicken, but as they share stories the element of surprise is at play. Who knew that even Ugly Duckling, Rapunzel and The Little Mermaid have a shocking surprise for Papa too? Spend some more time with these two chickens in a book that celebrates surprises and shared stories.

Stein's second story about this little chicken family has the same warmth as the first. There is a wonderful coziness about Papa and the little chicken and the home they share. At the same time, it has a dazzling sense of humor that children will adore with truly laugh-out-loud moments of surprise and elephants.

The art continues the feel of the first book in the series with a home filled with small touches and rich colors. The stories the two share are drawn in ink and have an old-fashioned feel to them. But then the blue elephant of surprise will break through and bring color into those books.

Full of surprises and joy, this picture book is a worthy follow up to the first. Appropriate for ages 4-6.

Becky says

First sentence: It was after school for the little red chicken. "Well, Chicken," said Papa, "did you have a good day at school?" "Yes, Papa! And today my teacher told us every story has an elephant of surprise. So let's read a story, and we'll find the elephant." "Chicken, she wasn't talking about an elephant. She was talking about an element of surprise.

Premise/plot: The Interrupting Chicken is back for a second book. In this picture book sequel, Papa is trying to teach his daughter, Chicken, about the ELEMENT of surprise. He reads her three stories: The Ugly Duckling, Rapunzel, and The Little Mermaid. There are no elephants in those stories. Or are there?! Will Chicken introduce ELEPHANTS to these classic fairy tales?!

My thoughts: I loved, loved, loved the first book. I didn't know how much I NEEDED a sequel until I saw this was being released. I don't know that I've ever put myself on the hold list so fast for a book.

This picture book did not disappoint. I loved every page of it. It was just a fabulous read. I adore Chicken and her Papa. I love their relationship. I love their dialogue. There is just something funny and sweet about these two.

I loved the illustrations. I enjoyed Chicken's illustrations for Papa's original story as well. Both text and illustrations are ADORABLE.

Once there was a Papa whose daughter LOVED elephants. And she thought she saw them everywhere. But there were no elephants! Every day, he got her dressed, but there were no elephants in the dresser. Every day, he fixed her breakfast, but there were no elephants in the refrigerator. And every day, he packed her off to--

Text: 5 out of 5

Illustrations: 5 out of 5

Total: 10 out of 10

Becky says

Little Red Chicken and dad are back in this sequel to Caldecott Honor book Interrupting Chicken. Little Red Chicken has learned about story elements in school, specifically the element of surprise but he confused this with an "elephant of surprise" leading to another hilarious read aloud moment with dad.

Susan Morris says

Loved this! Chicken misunderstands his teacher about the element of surprise in stories, and his dad cannot convince him he has it wrong. Illustrations are terrific, too. (Library)

Stephanie Croaning says

Little Red Chicken and her Papa are back in the sequel to the Caldecott Honor winner, *Interrupting Chicken*. Teachers could read this book as a fun introduction to a writing unit that focuses on the element of surprise.

Picture book, fiction
by David Ezra Stein
Candlewick Press, 2018
4 out of 5 stars

Similar in style to the original *Interrupting Chicken*, this story features the Little Red Chicken interrupting well-known fairy tales with his own brand of storytelling. Her teacher has just gone over the "elephant of surprise" that day in class and mentioned that all good stories feature one. Papa tries to convince Little Red Chicken that her teacher meant the "element of surprise," which is "the part of the story that makes you say, 'Whoa! I didn't know *that* was going to happen.'"

As Papa reads each story, an elephant of surprise appears at key moments. Papa decides to tell Little Red Chicken a story that features no elephants, but Chicken draws the pictures and, SURPRISE!, an elephant is included.

I think what made the original *Interrupting Chicken* book so special is that it felt fresh and was unlike other stories being written. This sequel is still good and full of fun, but it doesn't have that same punch. I still highly recommend it and believe that it is a good story for students of all ages. There is also an ending that makes me wonder if Chicken and Papa have a future story featuring math...

Ame says

HILARIOUS.

The key is to give the elephant of surprise a Bobcat Goldthwait type voice. Much comedy.

June says

When English class or writing gets you down - read this ridiculous story.

Heidi says

Sequels aren't always as good as the originals. But this one is just as delightful and laugh-inducing. I love the relationship between Little Chicken and her father. Her enthusiasm balances sweetly against his efforts to correct her misunderstanding. He tries to explain to her that her teacher didn't mean that every story has an "elephant" of surprise in it but an "element" of surprise. But Little Chicken doesn't believe her father and as they read together is delighted to point out to her startled father the 'elephant' of surprise that keeps

appearing. Once again the stories within the story make for some fun reading as things don't turn out the way one might expect. This delightful read has plenty of surprises of it's own and makes for fun read for both parent/teacher and child. Adults will relate to Papa's exasperation and fondness for Chicken. And children will relate to Chicken's surety that she heard her teacher correctly. A worthy sequel and fabulous story all on it's own. One of my favorites of the year.
